

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 171954

62  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 R

DRAFTED BY AF/EX:RTSALAZAR:AF/C:JSBLODGETT:DJW

APPROVED BY AF - JAMES J. BLAKE

AF/C - EMARKS (DRAFT)

AF/EX - EGKRYZA

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

NO DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE AF

----- 114327

R 122053Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171954

STADIS//////////

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, PFOR, CM

SUBJECT: WATTS BASE STATION

REFS: (A) YAOUNDE 2426; (B) YAOUNDE 2417

1. WATTS SURVEY TEAM WHICH VISITED YAOUNDE AND DOUALA BETWEEN JUNE 8 AND 12 FAVORS DOUALA, FROM TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE VIEWPOINT, OVER ALL OTHER POSTS SURVEYED ON THE TRIP.

2. BUREAU NOTES AMBASSADOR'S OPINION THAT REQUEST FOR LOCATING WATTS STATION IN CAMEROON WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY GURC, IF PROPERLY HANDLED.

3. BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH CONSIDERATION OF DOUALA AS POSSIBLE SITE, BUREAU WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE AS THOROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 171954

NEAR AND LONG-TERM POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A MOVE,

PARTICULARLY:

(A) WHAT IS PUBLIC REACTION LIKELY TO BE TO A HIGHLY  
VISIBLE FOREST OF ANTENNAE? COULD IT PROVOKE ACCUSATIONS  
(DISINTERESTED OR OTHERWISE) THAT BASE IS MORE THAN SIMPLE

DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS RELAY STATION? COULD COMMUNIST-SUPPORTED UPC OR OTHER DISSIDENT GROUPS SEIZE UPON ISSUE AS MEANS OF EMBARRASSING GURC? COULD PRESS, STUDENT GROUPS AND INTELLECTUALS EXERT PRESSURE ON GURC AND IN THIS EVENT WOULD GURC HOLD FIRM?

(B) WHAT WILL GURC DEMAND AS QUID PRO QUO? AMBASSADOR'S VIEW THAT CAMEROON MAY BE SEEKING REGIONAL "PARTNERSHIP" ROLE WITH US AGAINST THREAT POSED BY COMMUNIST "ENCIRCLEMENT" (REFTELS) SUGGESTS ONE APPROACH TO PROBLEM. IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT WOULD BE THE PRICE TO USG OF SUCH PARTNERSHIP? IN THIS REGARD, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER NOT ONLY WHAT GURC MIGHT ASK NOW, IN RETURN FOR INSTALLATION OF BASE, BUT ALSO WHAT IT IS LIKELY TO ASK LATER, IN RETURN FOR BASE'S CONTINUED OPERATION.

(C) WHAT WOULD BE THE LIKELY EFFECT OF A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN CAMEROON? APPARENT STABILITY OF AHIDJO REGIME AND "INSTITUTIONALIZATION" OF GOVERNMENT ARE ENCOURAGING FACTORS. HOWEVER PRESSURES FROM LEFT FOR REMOVAL OF AHIDJO SEEM TO BE GROWING. IN EVENT HE IS REPLACED WHAT WOULD BE LIKELY ATTITUDE OF NEW GOVERNMENT TOWARDS WATTS BASE?

4. BUREAU RECOGNIZES THESE QUESTIONS DO NOT ADMIT OF EASY ANSWERS, BUT AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN REACHING BUREAU JUDGMENT.

5. FYI FACILITY WOULD REQUIRE SUITABLE HOUSING FOR SOME 30 FAMILIES. INITIAL CONTINGENT WOULD CONSIST OF 15 EMPLOYEES WITH THE REMAINDER BEING PHASED IN WITHIN A 2-YEAR PERIOD. IS SUCH HOUSING AVAILABLE? KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TELECOMMUNICATION, TRANSMITTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE171954  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RTSALAZAR:AF/C:JSBLODGETT:DJW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760268-0573  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760767/aaaacgwh.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 76 YAOUNDE 2426, 76 YAOUNDE 2417  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WATTS BASE STATION  
**TAGS:** ACOM, PFOR, CM, US  
**To:** YAOUNDE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006